

Senator Washburne House
Galena, Illinois

Jo Darvess Co.

HABS 26-19

HABS

Ill.

43-GALA,

8-

Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

District No. 26

Historic American Buildings Survey
Earl H. Reed, Jr. District Officer
Room 404, No. 520 N. Michigan Ave.
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

HABS
ILL.
43 GALA,
8-

SENATOR ELIHU B. WASHBURNE HOUSE
JO DAVIESS COUNTY
GALENA, ILLINOIS

908 3rd Street

DISTRICT NO. 26
NORTHERN ILLINOIS

EARL H. REED, JR.
DISTRICT OFFICER

Project No. 26-19

By Louis Pirola

SOURCE

This house of brick and wood trim was built for Elihu B. Washburne sometime between 1845 and 1850. The deed shows he purchased the property in 1843 for \$205.00. The assessment records of 1850 show the property improved with a building.

Mr. Washburne was born in 1816 in Maine. He was graduated from the Law School of Harvard University in 1839, settled in Galena in 1840 and was Congressman from Illinois from 1852 to 1869.

Mrs. Frank T. Sheean The lawn of the Washburne House was used for a drill field by Gen. Grant. Mr. Grant received his election returns by telegraph in the Washburne Library. He was the first President to receive election reports by telegraph. During Grant's presidency Mr. Washburne was Secretary of State and in 1869 became Minister to France.

The bay window in the Library and the porch adjoining were added in about 1860, and about the same time a bath room installed in the house.

In 1882 title to the property was conveyed to Thos. Sheean, and in 1931 it was transferred to Frank T. Sheean, member of the same family and judge of the circuit court, who is the present owner. The porch on the north side of the building was built in 1882.

Sometime in the 90's a terrific storm blew one of the columns of the portico out. The columns were originally set on square pedestals, but in replacing the column the base was removed and the deteriorated lower part of the column was cut off and the col-

urn extended to the floor, making a joint line on the column somewhat above the height of the pedestal. This alteration was carried on through the other columns.

The brick wall on the east and south of the library appears to have been rebuilt and perhaps done when the bay was added to the library. The corner of the library and the living room has a straight joint with no bonding. The outside walls throughout the building are 11 inches thick including the plaster, which is plastered directly on the masonry. The walls show settlement cracks and are tied together with tie bolts.

All outside walls are Galena brick, which appears to be hand made, as the bricks vary in size. The sash and frames are wood with weights except the servants' quarters, which have spring catches. The inside trim is painted white.

The house stands at 908 3rd St. Galena.

By Louis Pirola

February 10, 1934

Approved Emerson Smith
District Officer

Reviewed 1936 by H.C. Forman

ADDENDUM TO:
SENATOR ELIHU B. WASHBURNE HOUSE
908 Third Street
Galena
Jo Daviess County
Illinois

HABS IL-26-19
ILL, 43-GALA, 8-

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240-0001